

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. The applicant's amendment filed 01-10-2008 has been entered.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Diehl on 04-11-2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claims 1 and 17 have been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for collecting particulate material comprising:
a collection tray having an opening,
a fire resistant collection reservoir located beneath one end of said collection tray and attached thereto in communication with said opening, and
moving means for reciprocating movement with respect to the collection tray and the fire resistant collection reservoir for moving particulate material from said collection tray through said opening and into said fire resistant collection reservoir.

17. (Currently amended) A method of collecting particulate material including the steps of:

a) providing a collection tray into which said particulate material is deposited, said collection tray having an opening,

b) arranging a fire-resistant collection reservoir beneath one end of said collection tray and attaching thereto in communication with said opening; and

c) providing moving means for reciprocating movement with respect to the collection tray and the collection reservoir to move said particulate material from the collection tray through said opening and into said fire-resistant collection reservoir.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

4. Regarding claim 1, the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest the apparatus for collecting particulate material as claimed in detail, specifically wherein the fire resistant collection reservoir is located beneath one of the collection tray and attached thereto in communication with an opening in the collection tray such that the moving means for reciprocating movement with respect to the collection tray and the fire resistant collection reservoir functions to move particulate material from the collection tray through the opening and into the fire resistant collection reservoir.

5. Claim 17 includes the above allowable subject matter and is therefore allowable for at least the same reason(s).

6. Regarding claim 20, the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest the apparatus for collecting particulate material as claimed in detail, specifically wherein the moving means

includes a motor driven scraper carriage unit which includes scraper blade means arranged to move the particulate material from an inside base portion of the tray and into the reservoir and wherein means are provided for opening a reservoir lid of the fire-resistant collection reservoir when the scraper blade means is positioned above the reservoir, so that the particulate material moved by the scraper blade means is deposited into the reservoir.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William L. Miller whose telephone number is (571) 272-7068. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Victor Batson can be reached on (571) 272-6987. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3677

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/William L. Miller/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3677